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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/550,186	05/25/2006	Heikki Saariluoma	L4325.0002	5317
32173 7590 06/03/2009 DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP 1177 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS (6TH AVENUE) NEW YORK, NY 10036-2714				
EXAMINER				
LANGDON, EVAN H				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3654				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/03/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/550,186

Applicant(s)

SAARILUOMA ET AL.

Examiner

EVAN H. LANGDON

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF 298)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "a feeder" in line 23. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination it will be assumed that "a feeder" is 'the first feeder.' Claims 4 and 7 recite the same limitation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 9-10 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marshall (GB 1,002,951) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

Marshall discloses a feed mechanism for feeding a material to be processed into a working assembly included in a sheet processing line, the working assembly having an entry side, an exit side and an entry track (5), the feed mechanism comprising

equipment for handling a strip unloaded from a reel, characterized in that the feed mechanism comprises

at least one first web guide (20) provided on the entry side of the working assembly on either side of the entry track (29) for guiding sides (Fig. 3) of the strip which are parallel to the entry track (29), such that at least one of the web guides (20) present on the opposite sides of the strip is equipped with a positioning element (adjustable means on guide 20) for shifting the strip to a desired position in a direction crosswise to the entry track's (29) lengthwise direction,

a first feeder (1), provided on the working assembly's entry side and shutting co-directionally with the entry track (29), which is equipped with grippers (19) taking hold of the opposite sides of the strip and being adapted to move by one or more positioning elements for shifting the strip to a desired position in a direction crosswise to the direction of the entry track,

a barrier (35) for determining the position for a leading edge of the strip

the first feeder for bringing the leading edge of the strip against the barrier (35),

at least one first arrest cylinder (40, see annotated Fig. 2 below) provided on the working assembly's entry side for immobilizing the subsequently processed strip relative to the entry track (29),

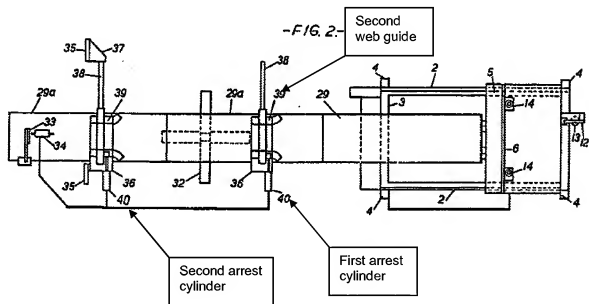
at least one second web guide (39) provided on either side of the entry track (29) on the working assembly's exit side for guiding the sides of the strip which are parallel to the entry track (29), such that at least one of the web guides (39) present on the opposite sides of the strip is equipped with a positioning element (39) for shifting the

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strip to a desired position in a direction crosswise to the entry track's (39) lengthwise direction,

a second feeder (39), provided on the working assembly's exit side and adapted to shuttle parallel to the entry track (29), which is equipped with a gripper (39) taking hold of the side edge (39) of the strip the gripper being adapted to travel in a direction crosswise to the direction of the entry track (29), and

at least one second arrest cylinder (40) provided on the working assembly's exit side for immobilizing the processed strip relative to the entry track (29).



AAPA teaches that it was known in the art at the time of the invention to have equipment to switch over between single sheet material and strip material. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the feed mechanism of Marshall to include single sheet and strip material feed equipment as suggested by AAPA, since all of the claimed elements were known in the

prior art and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

In regard to claim 2, Marshall as modified by AAPA teaches the first feeder has a positioning element to center the strip.

In regard to claims 3 and 10, Marshall as modified by AAPA teaches the barrier 35 as light source that triggers a stopper.

In regard to claims 4, 5, 11 and 12, Marshall as modified by AAPA teaches the first feeder having a flexible element (19) that is a gripper element.

In regard to claims 6 and 13, Marshall as modified by AAPA teaches the first web guides (20) have guides on the side adapted to center the entry track.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7, 8, 14 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EVAN H. LANGDON whose telephone number is 571-272-7057. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Q. Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-6952. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/EVAN H LANGDON/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3654